

Native Orchid of the Month—June

*Platanthera integrilabia*  
(white fringeless orchid)

Flowers of *Platanthera integrilabia* (white fringeless orchid), also known as monkey-face orchid, are nocturnally sweet-scented. The vegetative habit is distinctive, with leaves restricted to the base of the stem and a relatively few-flowered inflorescence borne atop a tall bracted stem. In addition to normal orchid root systems, roots often enlarge to form bud-bearing tuberoids at a marked distance from the parent stem, giving rise to diffuse clonal colonies.



Two features make this orchid distinctive from its relatives—one noticeable from a distance is the flower with a 2-inch long spur and the unfringed lip. The inflorescence is showy, with large, ghost-white flowers with conspicuous long spurs, clustered in loose racemes. The second notable feature is the single large leaf that is strongly keeled on the underside.

White fringeless orchid blooms from late June to early September. It is typically found in partially shaded,

flat, boggy areas at the head of streams or seepage slopes. It is rare throughout its range and most frequently found on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee and Kentucky. No sites with the orchid have been recorded in Louisiana.

